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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,473	12/31/2003	Rodney R. Wilkins	NFIBX 118	9873
2555	7590	12/27/2006	EXAMINER	
KREMLAS, FOSTER, PHILLIPS & POLICK			CECIL, TERRY K	
7632 SLATE RIDGE BOULEVARD			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
REYNOLDSBURG, OH 43068			1723	
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		12/27/2006	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/750,473	WILKINS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mr. Terry K. Cecil	1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11-13-2006.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 2-26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 26 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 2-25 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date one.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's confirmation of election without traverse of Group I, claims 2-25 (claim 1 was canceled) in the reply filed on 10-10-2006 is acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 2, 22 and 24-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wnenchak. Wnenchak teaches a filter medium of polypropylene and modacrylic fibers (Technostat), wherein the fibers includes measurable amounts of extractable organic contaminants (lubricants, antistatic agents, etc) as in the table of col. 4, including amounts up to about .1%.

4. Claims 1-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown (U.S. 4,798,850), as evidenced by Wnenchak and as evidenced by Legare (U.S. 6,211,100). Brown teaches a filter made of "clean" polypropylene and "clean" modacrylic fibers in the claimed

ratios. He also teaches that the second fiber in the ratios can also be acrylic (col. 1, line 36). However, as evidenced by Wnenchak expanded above, what Brown considers to be "clean" (substantially free) of extractables actually includes a measurable amount. (Wnenchak refers to the polypropylene/modacrylic combination as "Technostat". TECHNOSTAT is the trademark used to indicate the fiber filtering material of Brown, evidenced by Legare (col. 2, line 65 to col. 3, line 6).

As for claim 23, such is a product-by-process limitation. Applicant is reminded that "[E]ven though product-by-process claims are limited by and defined by the process, determination of patentability is based on the product itself. The patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production. If the product in the product-by-process claim is the same as or obvious from a product of the prior art, the claim is unpatentable even though the prior product was made by a different process." In re Thorpe, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

As shown above, the process of Brown still results in a product filter media having measurable amounts of extractables. Whether the process includes washing or not, the resulting product is the same as that claimed.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 10-10-2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Concerning applicant's calculations of the amount of extractables in the filter material, the samples had a mass of 169.49 g/m² (see col. 4, line 7) *not* 110 g/m² as argued by the applicant—resulting in a weight percentage of approximately .1% (223.05/169490). Applicant

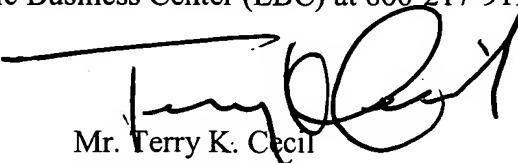
argues that Brown's teaching of his fibers having "no coating" (having been washed) means that absolutely no extractable organic contaminants exist is unconvincing, since the prior art—e.g. Wnenchak—teaches that washed or scoured fibers do contain a small amounts of contaminants. In addition, it is also pointed out that the link between Brown and Wnenchak is more than the trademark "Technostat" since Wnenchak specifically mentions the patent no. of Brown (see col. 1, lines 40-41 of Wnenchak). Applicant seems to aver that scouring or washing of fibers necessarily means 100% of all extractable contaminants are removed. This is not convincing in view of the prior art—e.g. Wnenchak and Brown (see col. 2, lines 49-50).

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Contact Information:

- Examiner Mr. Terry K. Cecil can be reached at (571) 272-1138 at the Carlisle campus in Alexandria, Virginia for any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner. Note that the examiner is on the increased flextime schedule but can normally be found in the office during the hours of 8:30a to 4:30p, on at least four days during the week M-F.
- Wanda Walker, the examiner's supervisor, can be reached at (571) 272-1151 if attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful.
- The Fax number for this art unit for official faxes is (571) 273-8300.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mr. Terry K. Cecil
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1723

TKC
December 20, 2006